

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 4-19 are currently being prosecuted.

Entry of Amendment

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Saito et al. (US Publication 2002/0140711) in view of Naito (US Publication 2002/0126106) and Poor (US 2004/0131279). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that objected to claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim. In order to overcome this objection, Applicant has rewritten claim 4 to include the limitations of the rejected base claim 3. Claim 4 should now be in condition for allowance.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-19 are allowed.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection and objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

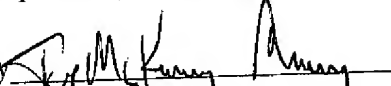
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse Reg. No. 27,295 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 17, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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